



VOL. 2, NO. 10,

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# the Inside Scoop ...of OJJ

## *Mission:*

*The Office of Juvenile Justice protects the public by providing safe and effective individualized services to youth, who will become productive, law-abiding citizens.*



*Dr. Mary L. Livers, Deputy Secretary*

Fall is here again and brings with it welcome changes and events.

Football season is here and that means games, games, games, from high school to college to the pros. That crisp feel of fall (yeah, right!) is always present in the stadiums, even the indoor kind. Tailgating is in full swing, too!

Even though the trees are still as green as ever, the blazing heat of summer has abated just a little and you can feel the change in weather coming on. As predicted, we have had an active hurricane season, but mercifully, Louisiana and the Gulf coast have been spared. Let's hope and pray that our luck holds out and we can make it to November with no tropical activity coming our way.

Hopefully, we will see a change a seasons. We have gone through a lot of changes recently and some people would like for that to end. But that's not realistic. Life means constant change, and I want to encourage everyone to embrace change – change can be unsettling, but can also be invigorating. We're in this for the long haul, and as President Franklin Delano Roosevelt said in his first inaugural address, "we have nothing to fear but fear itself."

So, let's enjoy the season and all that it brings. I hope your team has a winning season. And, I hope you will experience the best that fall has to offer with your families and friends.

**"Doc"** *Dr. Mary L. Livers*

## The Daily Motivator

### Keep getting results

When you get the results you're after, that's great. When the results fall short of your expectations, that's great too because you gain valuable knowledge and experience.

If you're going through a difficult stretch, keep going and you'll get yourself beyond it. If you're getting unsatisfactory results, keep making the effort, keep getting results and as you grow more effective with each attempt, you'll eventually get it just right.

With each action you take, you make a difference. The more experience you have at making a difference, the more skillful you become at making that difference exactly what you want it to be.

Look back at how far you've come since you started. See and understand how even the disappointing results have helped you to find your way forward.

With every effort, regardless of the outcome, you've made a step in the direction of the results you seek. Always expect the best, no matter what has happened before, for your results will move steadily toward your expectations.

Keep going, keep making the effort, keep making a difference and keep getting results. Each day, each action brings you ever closer to the goal.

-- Ralph Marston

## Staff Spotlight

### Spotlight on...

**PPO 3 Tracy Flores, Lafayette Regional Office**



**PPO Tracy Flores and son Mikah**

**Tracy Flores** always knew she wanted to work with adolescents, but she was not sure in what capacity. In 2004, with a new BA degree in sociology/psychology from the University of Louisiana/Lafayette, and friends who worked in OJJ's Lafayette office, Tracy found her niche.

**Regional Manager Susan Miller** said, "In my short time in the Lafayette Region, I have had the opportunity to watch PPO Flores in court and have worked closely with her since PPS Bonhomme retired. She and PPO Cappel are the two seasoned officers that work in Judge Landry's court. PPO Flores not only has to juggle very busy court dates, but has also assumed a leadership role in working with the two new officers assigned to that court. PPO Flores is proving to have good organizational and leadership skills. While some officers over time have sought to transfer out of the demanding St. Martin caseload and court, PPO Flores continues to give 100 percent to her clients and to this office. She is becoming an officer I know I can go to and she will get the job done."

"I try to do everything possible for the children in my caseload," Tracy said, "but I'm not always able to provide everything that I want. The children are the purpose we are here, and I want to do the best that I can for them. It can be frustrating not to provide every opportunity for them. Or when you

think you are getting through to a child, and they re-offend. It happens.”

One of the most rewarding things about the job is seeing the kids’ success, Tracy said. “When you see their senior pictures or graduation announcement, or you get a call from a child just checking in, that’s when you feel that you are actually impacting their lives, that they have not forgotten about you.”

“Many of our kids live in high crime and high poverty area,” Tracy continued. “They often have no positive people around them, no mentors – people who try to urge them to do better. It can be difficult for kids to find someone to talk to, when the parents are not positive role models.”

“I have never had a major problem with any of my kids or their families,” she said. “It all goes back to how you treat them. You have to offer them the same respect that you want from them. At first, the kids, and families, view us as cops, until they get to know us. We have to make them understand that we are there to help them, not to hurt them. It can be difficult, it takes time.”

Tracy said she likes to conduct home visits, rather than meeting her youth at a parish facility or at school. “You don’t get the whole picture without going to the home. It’s different when you can see the kids in their own element.”

“Some kids never truly open up,” she added, “but most will do so after two or three months. It really takes a while to get a relationship established. Often the kids don’t trust adults. They have been taught that ‘these people do not need to know our business.’ It can become a vicious cycle.”

Trying to break that cycle is the hardest thing, Tracy said. “That’s what takes the most work and the most time. There really is not enough time – sometimes it takes more time than you have to give.”

It’s important to have good community resources and to match those resources with the child and their family, Tracy noted. “Our job is to follow through to make sure they are getting all the services that the court ordered and they are meant to have,” she said.

“We care about our kids,” Tracy went on. “We often have to back away and not get too involved. You know how you live your own life, and you meet these kids who have nobody. You want to do more for them than you should, and you have to separate yourself from them. It can be very hard.”

“We establish relationships with the kids and we wonder how they are doing when they are off probation,” she said. “You offer everything that you can to the kids. It makes you feel as though you are having an impact on them.”

Tracy and her husband, Wayne, have a seven-month old son, Mikah. She and her husband enjoy attending area festivals and travelling, staying a little closer to home since the baby arrived. Tracy is a Lafayette Parish native and a graduate of Carencro High School. Wayne is an avid football fan, and they cheer for the LSU Tigers and the Saints.

Family is an important part of Tracy’s life, and she loves to hang out with her siblings (a sister and two brothers) and parents. Her parents have a camp at Three Mile Lake near Krotz Springs, and the family spends a lot of time together.

One of Tracy’s favorite pastimes is scrapbooking. She likes to put together scrapbooks for events and life milestones. “I created a scrapbook that depicted our whole courtship, so guests at our wedding could look at it,” she noted. Another event that Tracy memorialized was the first year of her sister’s baby’s life. Of course she is keeping a scrapbook for her own son. “Creating a scrapbook makes you remember things even better and gives you a different perspective on things,” she said. “It’s really fun, something I like to do by myself. Of course, there is less

time since the baby got here. And he is always doing new things.”

“My get-away is going to the gym,” Tracy added. “I love to exercise.”

“Since I have become a mother, I always think about what I am going to do for my own child,” Tracy said. “Being a PPO makes me a better parent.”

With the child-centered attitude that Tracy brings to her work, it’s clear that meeting the mission is something that comes naturally.

## **Transitions**

### **Comings and Goings...**

welcome to new members of the OJJ family:

#### **Baton Rouge**

Keelen Robinson – PPO1  
Andree Williams – PPO 1

#### **Bridge City Center for Youth**

Quina Alexander – JJS 1  
Shaun Bagnerise – JJS 2  
Calvin Carr – JJS 2  
Tara George – Food Prod Worker  
Darnell Griffin – JJS 1  
Garyriner Harris – JJS 1  
Erica Henderson – JJS 2  
Quinise Howard – JJS 1  
Brian Lebant – JJS 2  
Erica Lassai – JJS 1  
Karen Marshall – JJS 2  
Jena Reimonenq – JJS 1  
Wendell Russell – JJS 1  
Edmund Wilson – JJS 1  
Tyneesha Williams – JJS 1  
Wilfred Wright – JJS 2

#### **Hammond**

Steven Trombka – Field Agent

#### **Jetson Center for Youth**

Thomas Blue – JJS 1  
Tiffany Edwards – JJS 2

Marvin Scott – JJS 1

Nicole Smith – JJS 2

Jakouri Williams – Soc Svs Counselor 3

#### **Lafayette**

Joseph Devillier – PP 1

#### **Swanson Center for Youth**

Raneesha Allen – JJS 1  
Toyon Banks – JJS 1  
Kewanda Caldwell – JJS 1  
Brigitte Day – JJS 1  
Mitchell Doyle – JJS 1  
Aaron Dozier – JJS 1  
Eric Edwards – JJS 1  
Calvin Elliott – Food Prod Worker  
Sarah Foster – JJS 1  
O’Shawny Hogg – JJS 1  
Jessica Johnson – JJS 1  
Derrick Lewis – JJS 1  
Paul Little – JJS 1  
Cynthia Lee – JJS 1  
Talissha Manning – JJS 1  
Billye Miller – JJS 1  
Jennifer Mosby – JJS 1  
Jarrett Montgomery – JJS 1  
Tiffany Parker – JJS 1  
Portia Robinson – Soc Svs Counselor 3  
Rebecca Smith – Soc Svs Counselor 1  
Shermicka Tatum – JJS 1

## **Promotions:**

### **Baton Rouge**

Shantia Roy – PPO 1  
Wendy Sarner – PPS

#### **Jetson Center for Youth**

Melvin Carter – JJS 3

## **Retirement**

### **Bridge City Center for Youth**

Julie LaRose – Train/Dev Program  
Manager, 34 years of service



**Lafayette**

**Roy Brown – Probation/Parole Supervisor,  
26 years of service**

**Swanson Center for Youth**

**Emma Walker – JJS 2, 10 years of service**

**CQIS Policy Updates****Approved:**

A.2.16 No Smoking and Tobacco-Free  
8/23/10

A.2.42 Leave Approval for Employees Prior  
to Retirement 8/6/10

A.2.54 Attainment of one year Certificate in  
Juvenile Justice 8/11/10

A.2.55 Time and Attendance 8/10/10

A.3.2 Travel 8/10/10

A.3.10 LaCarte Purchasing Card 8/10/10

A.5.1 Access to and use of Information  
Technology Resources 8/17/10

A.6/2 Personal Property Reimbursement  
8/10/10

A.7.3 Facility Design / Space  
Management 8/10/10

### **AMIKids 2010 Whitewater Rafting Challenge Event on the Nantahala River**

**By Sherri Ulleg, AMIKids Communications  
Director**

For the Rafting/Rappelling Challenge in North Carolina, the kids got all geared up at the Nantahala Outdoor Center and were bused to the site where they put the rafts in and started their journey. The ride down the river back to the center is about an hour and a half. The teams are timed from when they put in and start to when they end back at the Outdoor Center. I stood on the side of one of the falls near the end to get some pics of the kids as they were ending their trip.



*Some got a little wetter than others!*



*And, some... even a little more!*

One of the young men from Baton Rouge who came down first and then talked his whole team down, telling them, "I did it, you can do it!!"



The staff at the rappelling site have been amazing. From gearing the kids up and making them feel safe immediately when they got on the site, to Jamile's "Ground School" getting the kids comfortable using the gear on a rope, to the team on the bunny hill talking kids down who had never thought they would ever do something like this, to the team on the big mountain getting the kids over the side and rappelling right alongside them... they have just been absolutely committed to making sure each and every kid made the most of their experience on the site.

## Thibodaux Regional Office



*The Thibodaux OJJ Team: from left, (bottom) PPO Tressa Gros, PPO Rachel Loupe, PPO James Percle, and Transport Officer, Chris Paul; (second row) RM Angela T. Koenig, PPO Ja'Nice Williams, PPO Lori Babin, PPO Jaime Hebert, PPO Allison Lirette, PPS Lorraine Thibodaux, PPS Andi Ford, and PPS Vicky Marcel; (third row) PPO Tracy Theriot, PPO Summer Ferriera, PPO Sandra Rodrigue, PPO Josef Nguyen, and PPO Herman Matherne; (fourth row) PPO Josh Becnel, PPO Jeff Barrilleaux, PPO Eddie Fannin, and PPS Robert Duet. Not pictured are: PPO Heidi Brown McElroy and PPO Keith Kotoski.*

## Probation and Parole Officers Week Celebrated

Thibodaux OJJ celebrated Probation and Parole Officers Week. **RM Angela T. Koenig, PPS Robert Duet, PPS Andi Ford, PPS Lorraine Thibodaux PPS Vicky Marcel, and Administrative Supervisor Connie Becnel** joined together to make Probation and Parole Officer Week enjoyable for all Probation and Parole Officers. Throughout the celebration, supervisory staff presented cold watermelon, ice cream dessert, biscuits for breakfast, and pizza for lunch. **Program Specialist/PPCT Instructor Jacqueline Page** also was able to celebrate with us during the week. She conducted the annual PPCT recertification for the PPOs. Thanks, Jackie! A huge thanks goes out to supervisory staff as well who made this week very special for all

of us. Your thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated by all.

## Congratulations

**Probation and Parole Officer Allison Lirette** was chosen **Employee of the Month** for July. She has been a member of the OJJ family since July 2002. "If there is one thing that I have learned these past 8 years, it is to appreciate the little things in life and never take anything for granted," Allison said. "Life is about perseverance and faith because you cannot go through life without them. Also, not a day passes by that I do not think of how blessed I am of being a part of this team."

## Welcome

We welcome our new **Transport Officer Christopher Paul**, to the OJJ team. Welcome aboard, Chris.

## Thanks

A huge thanks goes out to Thibodaux OJJ **Firearms Instructors James "Eddie" Fannin and James Percle**, for scheduling a day for the PPOs and supervisors at Thibodaux OJJ, as well as some of the PPOs at New Orleans OJJ, for the opportunity to go out to the Lafourche Range for firearms training. Thanks, y'all, for a job well done. We were all thankful that there was a light breeze blowing that day which kept things a little cooler for everyone. It was a perfect day to be on the range.

## Restorative Justice Events

Both our AMIKids day treatment programs planned events. AMI Bayou Region covered forgiveness and Studious Behavior Awareness in their Therapeutic Groups. Donaldsonville AMIKids wrote essays on the topic "why study?", a poem on the topic "future careers" and a poster on "academic motivation" for Studious Behavior Awareness.

## Judges Visit AMikids Donaldsonville

**Federal Magistrate Judge Karen Roby** of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana visited AMikids Donaldsonville in August. Her message to the students was focused around the importance of forgiveness. "In order to be forgiven, one must forgive" stated Judge Roby. Judge Roby spoke at AMikids Donaldsonville in celebration of "National Forgiveness Day."

Judge Karen Roby is a 1983 graduate of Xavier University in New Orleans, where she received a B.S. in Business Administration. She received her J.D. from Tulane University Law School in 1987. Formerly a litigator, in 1998 Judge Roby was appointed to serve as a Magistrate Judge on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. She was selected as a 2008 Louisiana Heroine by the Louisiana Association for Non-



profits for lending her time, talent and treasure in service to the First Tee of New Orleans.

**Judge Roby and students Joseph H. and Derrick M.** Photo by

**Journalism Club photographer Kivari B.**

**Judge John Guidry** of the Louisiana First Circuit Court of Appeals visited AMikids Donaldsonville in August.



Judge Guidry spoke to the students about the importance of education. Judge Guidry kicked off

AMikids Donaldsonville's Studious Behavior Month activities. "Education is the key to success" stated Judge Guidry. "Take advantage of this program and all it has to offer."

## Tallulah Regional Office

### Restorative Justice

PPOs spoke with our youth during the month of August of the importance of attaining their high school diploma or GED for "Studious Behavior Awareness Month" since they will be returning to classrooms, and the importance of forgiving others and oneself for "Forgiveness Day."

## Swanson Center for Youth

### Congratulations



In August **Therapeutic Recreation Specialist Vincent Butcher, Sr.**, preached his first sermon. His text was Matthew 11:28-30 and his subject was "The Yoke of Christ." Coach Butcher stated, "I would like to thank my wife, son, family, friends and co-workers for their support and prayers. To God be the glory for the things that He has done. May God bless you and keep you."



We here at Swanson look for any excuse to get together to fellowship, but most importantly to EAT! And what better reason to have a luncheon than an upcoming

wedding? A surprise potluck was held for the groom-to-be, **Program Manager Rodney Ward**. Congratulations go out to **Rodney and Shannon** who tied the knot in August.

**Photo: Rodney Ward is escorted into his surprise luncheon by Dusty Teer.**





you, Director Johnson, for all you did at Swanson. *Photo: Director Carolyn Atkins congratulates Deputy Director Ron Johnson.*

A farewell luncheon was held recently to honor **Deputy Director Ron Johnson's** retirement. After 30 years of service, Deputy Director Johnson has decided to "go to the house." Thank

## Shreveport Regional Office

### Congratulations

**PPO Kristen McKee** has been named Shreveport OJJ **Employee of the Month**. Congratulations, **PPO McKee** and keep up the excellent work.

### Training Events Held

**Shreveport OJJ** was very busy with training in August. A 40 hour PPCT class was held with several new employees participating. Those completing the class were **Amanda Lummus, Anthony Hall, Ciera Murphy, and Holly Black**. Thanks to **Todd Carlisle, Daniel Barnard** and **Stanley Cook** for instructing this class.

**AC/4 Shatina Salter** attended Protégé/Inventory Training.

**PPS Jan Crain** and **PPO Natalie Pope** attended LAMOD training at Swanson. **PPS Crain** also attended IV-E training.

**PPO Natalie Pope, PPO Daniel Barnard** and **PPO Todd Carlisle** attended Motivational Interviewing training.

**PPS Steve Martino** and **PPO Daniel Barnard** attended Emergency Preparedness training.

### Gettin' the Job Done

After-hour curfew checks were conducted by staff under the supervision of **PPS Guy May** and **PPS Steve Martino** in August. PPOs participating were **PPO Todd Carlisle, PPO Brandy Stratton, PPO Jarred Cram, PPO Charles Herrmann, Jennifer Hill, Daniel Barnard, Fabrecia Roberson** and **PPO Nitasha Gibson**.

### Community Service

**AC/4 Shatina Salter** and **AC/3 Atejia (A.J.) Glover** served as judges for the AMIKids Red River Fashion Show in August.

**PPS Jan Crain** and **PPO Lanita Lars** attended the Goodwill Parent's Night.

**PPS Jan Crain** represented Shreveport OJJ at the OCS Stakeholders Meeting.

**PPS Kim Scott** represented Shreveport OJJ at the monthly Caddo Planning Board Meeting.

The Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office held a Management of Aggressive Behavior class at the Regional Training Academy. Shreveport OJJ was well represented by **PPO Charles Herrmann, PPO Todd Carlisle, PPO Daniel Barnard, PPS Guy May, PPO Anthony Hall, PPO Alan Glover, PPO Jennifer Hill, PPO Jarred Cram** and **PPS Steve Martino**.

**PPS Jan Crain** attended the T.E.A.M.S. Back to School Shout Out at the Hamilton Branch Library. Information was presented to parents and professionals on how to navigate through the school system and how to spot red flags in students' education.

**Shreveport OJJ** staff traveled to Monroe recently to conduct monthly face-to face visits with youth placed at SCY from our region. Our staff feels that these meetings are very productive and beneficial to the juvenile and probation officer assigned to the case.



## Restorative Justice

August was "world-wide forgiveness" month and our restorative justice topic. **Shreveport OJJ** recognized **World Wide Forgiveness Month**. During our monthly contacts with our youth, we discussed the topic of "forgiveness" with them. While meeting with them we also encouraged them to write down a list of those who they feel have in some way wronged them and that they need to forgive. After they had done so, we assisted them in shredding or "tearing up" this list to symbolize their desire to "erase the hurt," forgive and move forward.

## New Orleans/Jefferson Regional Office

**Regional Manager Kelly Clement** attended the Parent Listening Meeting held at BCCY. Parents of youth placed at BCCY asked OJJ staff some very pertinent and poignant questions. The appreciation displayed by parents at the event made this a most worthwhile experience.

## AMIKids Notes

At AMIKids, an informed student is an empowered student. **Mr. Glen Scott**, member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, addressed an attentive group of students on HIV awareness. Mr. Scott was inundated with very thought provoking questions from the students.

Wow! AMIKids **Executive Director Malaika Morris** let us in on a secret. Our very own **PPO Milton Crosby** is being displayed on their wall of fame during the month of September as he was the chosen PPO for the month of August. Ms. Morris enthusiastically shared that PPO Crosby was selected because of the assistance that he has rendered to staff, frequency of contact with a youth within his caseload, availability to staff and his perseverance in pursuit of positive outcomes.

## Restorative Justice Training

**Social Worker Roxann Tuircuit** attended a Restorative Justice Practices Training focused on enabling individuals to restore and rebuild their community. The training included structured meetings that instructed participants on how to collectively bring together individuals affected by an incident involving wrongdoing or conflict, with the intent of addressing ways of repairing situations. Effective strategies for managing a student's behavior and assisting students in the acceptance of responsibility for their actions were also addressed.

## PPO Stanley Speaks...

**PPO Stanley Schofield** was on the move this month in his quest to motivate, enlighten and encourage. On August 14 he did a double header. He was the guest speaker at the "Women of Divine Unity" back-to-school rally and later he spoke to members of the O.P. Walker football team. The next day, PPO Schofield could be heard across the airwaves as the guest speaker for WYLD FM 98.5 annual back- to- school program. He delivered a timeless message that he has rendered numerous times before. Nonetheless, this impactful message of love, respect and appreciation for parents is one that will never lose its appeal or effect.

## Katrina Remembered

**By Program Specialist Paulette Carter**

This month saw the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. As I watched the Spike Lee documentary, CNN coverage and other specials pertaining to this event, I realized how I had unconsciously submerged the impact of this happening into the abyss of my psyche. The memorials resuscitated my memory of this event, allowing my thoughts to breathe and flow again. And as a result, my travel reverted back to my return to OJJ-New Orleans after the storm. I recalled how every successful contact with a co-worker or a co-worker's return to the job, created an eruption

of uncontrollable joy among the entire staff. And how, despite our own personal struggles, losses, feelings and emotions, we were determined to locate, assist and encourage our youth and families.

During this process, we heard many stories. Some were exciting but most involved individuals longing to return to the city that they loved, or expressions of grief over the loss of precious family members or treasured memorabilia, such as photographs, heirlooms, evidence of identity and/or proof of accomplishments and purchase of domain.

Throughout it all, staff honored the needs of others first and placed their own needs second. I'm so glad that these memories have resurfaced in order to remind me of the unselfish, tireless and dedicated efforts put forth by staff during an unprecedented time in history.

This phenomenon causes me to focus on the uncalculated worth of individuals as a whole and the significantly increased value of us as a company of individuals working together toward a common goal.

### **YEP Celebrates Studious Behavior Awareness Month**



The Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) camp provided activities for youth to learn positive

behaviors and ways to deal with anger, frustration anxiety all designed to engage them in healthy outcomes. YEP celebrated Studious Awareness Behavior Month with a day designated to address the issues many of the youth in the camp struggle with. For Studious Behavior Awareness, the students at AMIkids-Jefferson wrote essays on the importance of having good study skills and

why it is important to study. For Forgiveness Day activities, the students wrote letters asking forgiveness from someone that they have done wrong, or wrote to forgive someone who had done them wrong.

## **Natchitoches Regional Office**

### **Congratulations**



**PPO2 Brenda Sarpy** was selected **Employee of the Month**. Keep up the good work, Brenda.



**Rodney Achord, husband of AC3 Monica Breedlove Achord**, completed a nine-week training including PPCT, firearms, chemical weapons and narcotic education and graduated in August from the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office as a Reserve Deputy.



**PPO3 Ashley Ward's daughter, Lillie**, graduated from Little Friends School Day Care in Natchitoches.

### **Hello and Goodbye**

Natchitoches OJJ welcomes back **PPO Deanna Williams** from maternity leave.

**PPO Jeremy Martin** left the agency to pursue a career as a teacher at Cloutierville Elementary School.

## Monroe Regional Office

### A Day in the Life of a Probation/Parole Officer: The Kids Can Keep Us Going

By PPO3 Gary L. Hunter

Our youth can help us keep going when we least expect them to do so. Starting the month of September to make personal contacts, I decided to begin at Swanson Center for Youth. I arrived early at the facility so I would be fresh, ready to absorb and listen to my youth.

Upon my arrival I was informed at the Control Center that my youth was in Cypress Dorm. I thought, "what has Gary done this time?" I still remained optimistic and went on anyhow to see my youth.

Gary came out and we greeted each other as we would always do upon the visit. I then asked Gary to tell me something good for starters. Gary looked at me, held his head down and replied, "I wrote a poem, Mr. Hunter." I asked to see the poem. Gary went to get the poem from the staff member on duty and we shut the door and had a moment of privacy.

We read the poem together and as I read the poem aloud, I thought about it and asked Gary where this came from. Suddenly, I realized that the content of the poem was what I have said to this youth any number of times. I was so shocked that it was obvious in my demeanor.

Gary gave the impression that he was shocked with my expression and reaction to his thoughts. To say the least, my favorite part of the poem is and I quote:

"You can start off by saying I'm sorry...  
Can you forgive me for what I have done, I've changed...  
I was living a Dream, but now I am wide awake.  
Ready for Success!

Do Good and Good will come and last I wrote this passage ...  
to reach the Young Men that need a Helping Hand,  
The ones that think the Door is Locked, I'm here to tell You ...  
It is not –  
Just use Your Key - Your Mind!"

To get a true appreciation of the poem, you would have had to work with this youth and know that whatever progress you see or hear **is progress**. Little did this youth know, his poem was read the rest of the day with other youth. The reactions were awesome and fulfilling to this officer.

It reminded me of a passage written by David, Psalm 37 25-26 "I have been young and now old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread. He is ever merciful and lendeth: and his seed is blessed."

Thanks for listening.

### Congratulations, Hannah and Ron

Monroe OJJ recently held a baby shower for **PPO3 Hannah Dozier and her husband, Ron**. They are expecting their first child, a baby girl named Peyton, in September. We had cake and punch, and everyone enjoyed watching Hannah open her gifts.

#### *Pictures from Hannah's baby shower...*



## Welcome

Monroe OJJ welcomes new **PPO Valerie Nordstrom**. Valerie has prior experience at Johnny Robinson's Boys Home and Swanson. Welcome aboard, Valerie.

## Training Conducted

In August Monroe OJJ conducted the 16 hour Defensive Tactics Recertification conducted by **PPO3 Gary Hunter** and **PPO2 Patrick Cooper**. All participants passed the written and physical exam. Good job, y'all!

**PPO1 Reginald Chaptman** participated in the POST Pre-assessment held in Alexandria in August. Reggie passed and will begin the Probation & Parole POST Academy in Baton Rouge in September. We will miss you, Reggie and we know you will do GREAT.

**RM Patty Newman** and Monroe OJJ hosted the La MOD North Training for our area providers in August.

**Program Specialist Walteree Barnes, PPS Gail Wilson, PPO3 Willie Hunter** and **PPO2 Cheryl Pringle** attended training on Motivational Interviewing, conducted by Susan Taylor, in Baton Rouge in August.

## Restorative Justice Projects

For Studios Behavior Awareness, PPOs discussed with youth the importance of education, their educational and career plans and goals, how studying relates to their success in achieving personal goals, and creating a map/outline to assist with their goals. This will be documented in case narratives.

For International Forgiveness Day, youth in our non secure placements completed letters asking forgiveness from someone they may have wronged, or giving forgiveness to someone who wronged them. The letters were for their personal benefit, not to be sent or mailed.

## Lake Charles Regional Office

### Congratulations

**RM Ann Vick** celebrated **39 years** of OJJ service in August. As part of her training for the United Methodist Church Response Team, Ann spent a day as part of a team visiting relief sites in Buras and the Venice BP compound. More training is scheduled as the situation continues to change.

**PPO Delisa Clark** celebrated five years of service since returning to OJJ in August.

**PPO Ronald Gilchrist** celebrated seven years of OJJ service in June.

**PPO Rebecca Harmon** was promoted to PPO3, and celebrated three years of OJJ service in June.

**PPO Alexis Heflin** celebrated four years of OJJ service in August.

**Administrative Coordinator 4 Annette Stoddard** celebrated 12 years of OJJ service in June.

### Thanks for meeting the mission

**PPO3/J Monet Newman** and **PPO3/J Ronald Gilchrist** recently treated several Boys Village residents to lunch at a local restaurant as a reward for making their required points.

**PPO2 Garrick Chambers, PO3 Fred Fontenot, and PPO3 Ronald Gilchrist** played basketball with Boys Village staff to teach teamwork, practice patience, to work through anger regarding "bad calls," and to promote physical activity.

**PPO Karli Pullard and PPO Hollie Comeaux** each voluntarily purchased Day Treatment school shirts for probationers who needed them.



A big thank you to **PPO3 Rebecca Harmon** who has been cleaning up the weekly JETS error reports.



*In August, Transport Officer Corey Harmon inspected the fleet of vehicles as part of Lake Charles OJJ's Emergency Preparedness.*

A grand THANK YOU to **PPS Ken Vidrine, RM Ann Vick, PPO3 Monet Newman and PPO3 Karli Pullard**, who each covered responsibilities in **PPS Melissa Cross's** maternity leave absence.

## Lafayette Regional Office

### Farewell

Lafayette OJJ bids farewell to two members of its family.



**St. Martin PPS Pete Bonhomme** recently retired after over 20 years of service with OJJ, that saw him work in central office, the Baton Rouge Regional Office and the Lafayette Regional Office. Pete's humor and vast

knowledge of the juvenile justice system will be greatly missed. A dinner in Pete's honor was held at Deano's Pizza in Lafayette in August. Lafayette PPO Lynette Broussard presented Pete with a card, and a gift certificate to Academy Sports & Outdoors... apparently Pete needs new fishing equipment for his time off.

**Administrative Coordinator Christina Sanchez** left the Opelousas Office in August to spend more time with her family. Christina was a devoted worker who never shied from a difficult task, and her selflessness will be difficult to replace.

### OJJ Rock Star Receives Award



Vermilion and Acadia Parish **PPS Ken Stewart**, Lafayette OJJ's resident rock star, was honored at the Cajun French Music Association's "Le Cajun" Awards Ceremony in August. "Cajun Come To Town (Cadien Vien

Au Village)," the debut from Ken's Cajun group, Cajun Accent, was nominated for "Best CD by a Cajun Group," as well as "Best First CD by a Cajun Group," winning that award. "Cajun Come To Town" consists of fourteen songs, nine of which were written by Ken. Ken also arranged three of the other songs on the album. Ken plays the accordion with the group.

### Thanks

The Lafayette Region recently completed a PPCT refresher course. Many thanks to the region's DT instructors, **Lynette Broussard, Joey Graciana, Deacon Jones and Mina Travis**, who gave their time to teach the class.

The Save Our Children Mentoring Program in Franklin hosted a social for area youth, with a theme of forgiveness. **Marty Romero**, who counsels many of OJJ's clients in the area, and is also an ordained minister, spoke about the true joy of forgiveness. St. Mary Parish **PPO Paige Sieber** also spoke at the social. The facilitator of the program, **Reggie Harrell**, served hot dogs and soft drinks to the many youth and parents in attendance.

Iberia Parish **PPO Cassandra Gardiner**, a licensed Operation Lifesaver Instructor, participated in the Progressive Community Outreach Center's Community Day in August. The event featured a variety of educational, structured social, and cultural activities for youth and adults. Over 60 organizations were invited to participate, including the Lafayette Police Department, the Lafayette Fire Department and the Lafayette Public Library. Hands-on educational programs were offered for the children, and literature about the programs and services were handed out. PPO Gardiner says she enjoys giving Operation Lifesaver presentations. She feels that meeting the mission "doesn't restrict us to only helping the youth on our caseloads."

## Jetson Center for Youth

### Condolences

**JJS6 Durwood Gros** recently lost his father-in-law, Nolan Richard Holden. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers.

### Jetson and BR Probation and Parole Office Hold a Regional Meeting

In August **Director Daron Brown** and several staff members met with Baton Rouge **Regional Manager Sue Larisey** and Probation and Parole staff at Baton Rouge OJJ to discuss, collaborate and seek solutions, but most of all to form a better relationship and to seek out ways of how can we complement each other within the Office of Juvenile Justice. Director Brown and Sue Larisey both explained that we are all parts of a team working together to improve the services that we all provide to the youth. Everyone introduced themselves and spoke briefly of their areas of responsibility. We discussed NCIC as it pertains to youth runaways, youth visitation procedures, telephone directories for each department, youth staffing, youth reintegration plans, resource guides for case managers,

Performance-based Standards, P/P staff visiting the facility and JETS.

The meeting was very productive and we all left with a better understanding of the roles each department plays within the Office of Juvenile Justice.

### Kids Serve Others at St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen

In August youth from Spring Dormitory, along with **Group Leader Oscar King**, **Assistant Group Leader Frances Bailey**, **JJS Frank Smith**, **JJS Jefferson Jordan**, **counselors Nikisha Spann** and **Sandra Sims** and **Director Daron Brown** volunteered at the St. Vincent de Paul kitchen. The youth and staff put on aprons, gloves and hats and



assisted with serving hot meals and beverages, and cleaning.

Volunteering is about giving your time to participate in activities that benefit others and our youth took advantage of this opportunity. Comments made by the youth: "I wish I could help more - wow, I feel so happy doing this. "I wish I was rich, I would take care of these people," and another youth replied, "money don't help all the time." We all were excited about giving back to the community. The staff at St. Vincent de Paul praised the youth for their excellent behavior, encouraged them and



invited us to come back soon. Afterwards, Director Brown treated the staff and youth to lunch at Ryan's Steak House. **Photo:**

**Director Brown, center, helps serve at St. Vincent de Paul's kitchen.**

## STOP, DROP, and READ at Scenic Alternative High School

Principal Ronnie Knox is **pushing** his STOP, DROP, and READ program with the entire Scenic Alternative High School staff including youth care staff, para-educators and teachers. Every Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:50 a.m., in every classroom, students and staff are reading. Principal Knox said, "We are reading for the love and fun of reading." He made signs and posted them in the hallway.

Every teacher has a set of high interest books from the Bluford Series. The books range from the lower level to the highest level. One goal for Scenic Alternative High School is to improve the students' reading scores by at least two grade levels. We have some great students who work daily to improve. All of the students need to be motivated and believe that they can improve. We want all of our students to advance from good to great. We are setting the model for them to be men in every way by our walk, talk, and look. We expect great success from our Stop, Drop, and Read program.

## Progress in Learning is Proven at Scenic Alternative High School

Grade level advancement is evident as results of the 2009-2010 school year are analyzed. The results of the pre/post TABE (Test of Adult Basic Achievement) were gathered so the educational staff could see what progress had been made during the school year.

Data demonstrated that in reading, 55% of students made progress; in language, 59% of students made progress and in math, 69% showed progress.

This data proves that a majority of our students made progress in all academic subjects. Some students showed no improvement nor did they show regression. For the faculty, too large of a percentage showed regression. It is our focus for the 2010-2011 school year that more students will

show improvement than was shown in the 2009-2010 school year.

Principal Knox sets the tone for teachers to teach and for students to learn. He is always available for both teachers and students. He encourages students to do their best and doesn't accept lame excuses when they don't want to stay on task. He demonstrates the traits of true leadership.

## Consultants and Teachers Work to Improve Student Performance

Educational consultants **Amy Allen** and **Betty Kraft** recently conducted a second professional development opportunity for education staff at Scenic Alternative High School. The consultants concentrated their efforts on research conducted by Robert Marzano, Debra Pickering and Jane Pollock regarding nine instructional strategies that work to improve student performance.

The concepts were reinforced with learning activities that were very beneficial to the staff. The nine strategies discussed and demonstrated were:

- identifying similarities and differences
- summarizing and note taking
- reinforcing effort and providing recognition
- homework and practice
- nonlinguistic representation
- cooperative learning
- setting objectives and providing feedback
- generating and testing hypotheses and
- cues, questions and advance organizers

The two most effective strategies are: identifying similarities and differences, and summarizing and note taking.

Staff were able to construct five beginning 'books' entitled, "The Most Important Book" using this technique to teach the main idea and supporting details. After sharing the

books with the entire group, the educators felt that this workshop was extremely helpful and agreed to continue or begin using these successful strategies.

Thanks to these consultants for providing current and relevant information. A follow-up session will take place later.

Principal Knox said this was not just a good workshop but a GREAT workshop. We loved it!

Thanks to the central office education team for this level of training.

### Vocational Instructors Put to the Test

At the request of **Director of Education Dr. Henry Sanders**, and with the approval of the Warden of Hunt Correctional Center, **Instructors Larry Poor** and **Samuel Butler** spent a hot summer day at Hunt Correctional Center administering a national certification exam.

**Cliff Robinson**, the instructor of the Hunt Correctional Center small engine repair program, took and successfully passed the 2 cycle part of the Engine Equipment Technician Certification exam. Additionally, the 4 cycle exam was given and three inmates passed that part of the exam.

This demonstrates the cooperative spirit between two agencies that have similar missions. Both of the Scenic Alternative High School instructors are certified in the 2-cycle and 4-cycle engine repair.

Mr. Butler and Mr. Poor are considered experts in their field and are called upon to assist in many agency and community projects. We are proud to call them “ours.” Thanks to both of you for the cooperative attitude that you bring to the job each day.

### Hammond Regional Office

#### SUPERSTAR!

The Hammond OJJ **Superstar** for August is **PPO2 Jennifer Sirchia**. She was recognized by **RM Julie Eudy** for her perseverance in helping a youth successfully get to Arizona to live with her father.

#### Restorative Justice Activity

Four youth who participate in the Anger Management Group facilitated by **Social Worker Daronda Lathan** of the Hammond Office, conducted a restorative justice project regarding forgiveness. Each youth selected a quote related to forgiveness. They wrote the quote on a piece of tissue paper, as well as a list of any people who may have caused them harm in the past, and those whom they have offended as a result of being angry or violent. Each youth read the quote and the names of those they wanted to forgive, as well as those they wanted forgiveness from. They placed the tissue in a bucket of water and allowed the paper to dissolve. One of the quotes selected reads as follows, “He who cannot forgive breaks the bridge over which he himself must pass” by George Herbert.



*Forgiveness: the paper dissolves.*

#### Hammond Drug Court Treatment Team's Restorative Justice Activities

**PPS Dawnita Hodge** described activities around the idea of forgiveness.

**Rocks:** Each student was handed a large rock, big enough to be uncomfortable to hold, that



would get in the way of normal activity, at the beginning of a lesson. Students were told they could not put their rocks down, they must hold them constantly on their own, and they can't rest them on anything else. The students were engaged and involved with the lesson while holding the rocks. After a few activities while holding the rocks, they were asked if their rocks were bothering them yet. What about if they carried them every day? What if they had to hold on to them while they were using the restroom? Playing sports? Sleeping? The students were asked what they thought the rocks symbolized and what this was supposed to teach them.

The rocks are symbolic of holding grudges, or withholding our forgiveness from other people. When we hold a grudge, or harbor bitter feelings toward someone else, who does it affect? When we withhold our forgiveness we are only hurting ourselves. It's not a game but it is a great object lesson.

Create a Forgiving Tree: In order to help students realize the importance of forgiveness, they listed on a leaf who they forgive, why, what they have learned, and the date. Then they see how many leaves they can add to the tree in a year's time.

For Studious Behavior Awareness, our students wrote in their journals prior to court, about future educational goals, the importance of achieving these educational goals, and future careers that would like to have.

## Central Office

### Condolences

Several staff members have had deaths in their families recently. Please keep our staff and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

**HR Analyst Latrice Bracken** has lost her grandmother, Gladys Percy.

**Contract/Grants Reviewer Jenny Borders'** mother-in-law, Maxine Fondren Borders, passed away.

**Administrative Assistant Shaeki Shanklin's** grandfather, Johnny Ootsey, recently passed away.

**Accountant Dorothy Walker** lost her sister, Lottie Walker Thomas.

### Farewell

We said goodbye to two members of the executive team. They will both be dearly missed and we wish them well in their new endeavors.

**Deputy Secretary for Special Projects Michelle Smith** recently got married and moved to Fayetteville, Arkansas, where she will be a law student at the University of Arkansas. We feted her with an appetizer party at a local restaurant and put together a memory book so staff could write their memories of working with Michelle and express their best wishes.

**Deputy Assistant Secretary/Facilities Philippe Magloire** has accepted a position with Cook County Juvenile Services in Chicago, Illinois. Philippe was well-known for eating only nutritious foods, so for his send-off **DAS Carolyn Lewis** and her **Adm. Assistant Katherine Abrams** organized a "healthy foods" luncheon. Although there was no junk food, we DID have luscious desserts!

### Executive Team Hosts Luncheon for the Morale Committee

In recognition of all that the Central Office Morale Committee does to keep everyone's spirits up, the Executive Team treated the Morale Committee to a luncheon. Exec team members came up with the menu, ordered the meal, brought in all the necessary utensils, tablecloths, etc., did the set-up and tried their

best to keep the Morale Committee members from doing anything but enjoying their luncheon.

Members of the Morale Committee are **Adm. Asst. Katherine Abrams, Adm. Asst. Marvel Adams, HR Analyst Latrice Bracken, Procurement Spec. Clarett Blount, Adm. Asst. Gwen Brinkley, IT Programmer Wade Campbell, Dep. Compact Adm. Suzie Durrett, Dr. Livers' assistant Nita Franklin-Shanklin, Adm. Asst. NyKisha Franklin, HR Mgr. Shirley Jackson, Budget Administrator Kimberly Jones, Program Coordinator Katie Kirkpatrick Justice, Exec. Mgt. Officer Phyliss Martello, IT Programmer/Analyst Vy Nguyen, Adm. Asst. Terri Scott, Adm. Asst. Shaeki Shanklin and IT Equip. Op. Jason Williams.**



*Members of the Central Office Morale Committee and the executive team enjoy a luncheon in honor of all the Morale committee does to keep us smiling.*



*Central Office is holding a series of fundraisers for breast cancer research. Right, NyKisha Franklin sets out the goodies while Nita Franklin-Shanklin, far right, listens as bake sales goodies call staff members' names. Thanks to all for supporting the fundraisers for breast cancer research – so far we have raised \$381.*

## Bridge City Center for Youth

### Welcome to new members of the family

**Quina Alexander - JJS1  
Shaun Bagnerise - JJS2  
Calvin Carr - JJS1  
Tara George - Food Production Worker  
Darnell Griffin - JJS1  
Garyriner Harris - JJS2  
Erica Henderson - JJS2  
Quinise Howard - JJS1  
Erica Lassai - JJS1  
Brian Lebant - JJS2  
Karen Marshall - JJS2  
Jena Reimonenq - JJS2  
Wendell Russell - JJS1  
Tyneesha Williams - JJS1  
Edmund Wilson - JJS1  
Wilfred Wright - JJS2**

### Training Class 20 Welcomed to BCCY

BCCY welcomed 17 trainees to its newest pre-service orientation class in August. The day began with a Meet and Greet session with the facility's Executive Leadership team followed by a tour of the campus. The class consists of 15 Juvenile Justice Specialists, one Social Services Counselor and a Food Service worker.



*BCCY's newest training class.*

### Fishing, Anyone?

On a fine Saturday in August, five young men from Hope Housing Unit at BCCY were chosen to attend a fishing trip with dorm staff. The young men were selected because of their performance during the previous month, as

well as their progress in the Jump Program. As with the typical fishing trip, the early bird gets the worm. In keeping with that tradition, the youth were awakened early and were on their way by 7:00 am. We arrived at our first fishing spot, but soon found that we were a bit late, for that spot was already picked clean. We eventually arrived at a spot where the young men were able to flex their muscles and caught several "hard head catfish," which we allowed the youth to release back into their habitat. All of the youth enjoyed this outing and are eagerly awaiting an opportunity to go again. The staff who attended were **Amanda Stokes, Rashied Comier, Kourtney Pratt, Denise Gasquet** and **Sam McKay**.

### Volunteer Services Program Activities

The Volunteer Services Program is in the process of updating files and scheduling volunteers to conduct Sunday services, special events, tours, and to work with dormitories, not just for their spiritual needs but as mentors and tutors. We are blessed to announce that we have a total of 103 volunteers who are very interested in making a difference in our youths' lives.

The Program began its annual orientation recently at United Fellowship Full Gospel Baptist Church, including 24 new volunteers, and 11 new volunteers from Regular Baptist Church. **Administrative Program Director Cassandra Washington** and **Volunteer Services Coordinator Sharonda Smith** had the opportunity to visit the House of Deliverance Church in Algiers to include approximately 15 volunteers for orientation.

We are also planning and preparing for our October Fest, which will be held at BCCY on Saturday, October 9 from 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. No Cross No Crown Church will be the main attraction, and will include devotion, a gospel rapper, lunch, Worship Team (singing), liturgical dance and interaction with the youth.

### Happy Retirement, Julie LaRose



The staff at BCCY recently hosted a retirement party for Training and Development **Program Manager Julie LaRose**. The party was held at her daughter **Cara Benson's** café, Tartine's. Cara prepared all the food and



desserts and everyone agreed that the food was wonderful. Co-workers and friends attended the event to show their love and support and note how much everyone will miss Julie.

**Director Linda London**

presented Julie with a plaque for being a dedicated employee of the State of Louisiana for 34 years. Afterwards, everyone was given the opportunity to express how much Julie has meant to them and how much she will be missed at BCCY. Julie plans to help her daughter operate Tartine's and take some much needed travel time. We wish her all the best.

### JUMP Program Holds Fellowship Day

The JUMP (Juveniles Understanding and Managing Problems) Sex Offender Treatment program at BCCY, which includes Hope and Pride Dormitories, hosted a day of fellowship with the treatment team, youth, and their families. There was plenty of food, music, games, and smiles throughout the day. This event was sponsored by Morning Star Baptist Church and the JUMP staff. The families had the opportunity to spend time with their youth and personally meet staff members. Counselors, therapists, and mentors also used the day to discuss issues and concerns, and provide information on the program and individual treatment.

Here is a summary of the event from a youth's perspective:



## Family Day

By Youth Gerald M., Hope Dormitory

In August, Hope and Pride dormitories had a Family Fun Day in the gym at BCCY. Staff, youth and their families were present for the event. Initially, from some of the youths' point of view, it was thought that this was going to be a boring, extended version of Sunday's visitation, but to our surprise, it was a great success. From the beginning to the end of Family Fun Day there was nothing but positive interaction between youth, staff and the families. The youth and staff really came together as one to make sure there were no problems. Youth Edward M., Deandre' G. and Trustin A. were all posted at the food area passing out drinks and snacks and we had the "Clean-Up Crew," which included Larry W. and Joshua T., who made sure all the tables stayed clean throughout the event. From jump rope to Connect Four, there were a lot of activities that the families could interact with their kids and others. Altogether, Family Day was a huge success and the youth really appreciate the staff who put this together and Ms. London for allowing us to have it. We believe all dorms should experience this.

## Baton Rouge Regional Office

### Congratulations



PPO Steven Dukes was selected **Employee of the Month** for August. Mr. Dukes is described by his colleagues as "supportive, encouraging and a team player."

Congratulations to **PPO Wendy Sarner**, who was promoted to Supervisor.

## Welcome Aboard

Welcome newcomers **PPO Keelan Robinson**, **PPO Shantia Roy** and **PPO Andree Williams**. We are happy to have all of you on our Baton Rouge team. Welcome back PPO Katina Broden. We are glad to have you back in our OJJ family.

## Hats Off for Jobs Well Done

### Restorative Justice Projects

We would like to say "Hats Off" to **PPO Marina Jenkins** and **PPO Patsy Adams** who coordinated the "Studious Behavior Awareness and Forgiveness Day Project" at Druesilla Group Home. Each youth was asked to write a paragraph on studious behavior and forgiveness. The youth were asked to read their paragraphs and discuss the topic they chose. Following the discussion the youth were counseled on both topics by the facility's counselor. The youth were separated into two teams and allowed to put together a skit on their assigned topics. The children were very eager to participate in the project. Their paragraphs were meaningful and informative, but of course the fun of the day was centered around the skit and working together as a team. Refreshments were provided.



*Youth work on their essays on studious behavior and forgiveness.*

Also, "Hats Off" to **RM Sue Larisey** for the employee luncheon she provided in honor of Probation and Parole Week. As usual, the luncheon was via invitation to all with a nudge of expectancy and participation. The



ensemble included all of the major food groups and a few of our own, such as RM Larisey's homemade Italian Cream Cheese Cake and her homemade chocolate fudge cake (two of our favorites). No luncheon in our office would be complete without it.

### **Lending a Helping Hand**

Kudos to **PPO Roy McBride**, **PPO Larry Aaron**, **AA Christina Falcon**, and **SSC Jennifer Anderson** for their good citizenship in our community.

**PPO Roy McBride** was spotted assisting some ladies who were having car trouble in our parking lot. The ladies had been at it for quite a while when Roy noticed them and offered his assistance. He rounded up a few tools and soon the ladies were back on the road again.

**PPO Larry Aaron** reported on his drive home that he had spotted a stalled vehicle, driven by an elderly lady, in the middle of the road. Larry and another motorist offered assistance and helped to push the vehicle to safety in a nearby parking lot. Although they attempted to start the vehicle several times they were unable to do so, so Larry stayed with the senior citizen until help arrived.

**SSC Jennifer Anderson** and **AA Christina Falcon** are very warm-hearted people. Jennifer received several requests for Bibles from her youth at St. James Detention Center. Because she is such a resourceful person, Jennifer met with Christina Falcon, who spoke with the Youth Department at her church, Parkview Baptist, and asked if they would be able to donate Bibles to a few of the youth at St. James Detention. The Church agreed and they have been providing Bibles to youth upon request for the past couple of months. There are blue Bibles for the males and pink Bibles for the females. In August, the church presented all of the youth at St. James with Bibles as a gift of love from the hearts of the community. Jennifer also collected school supplies and uniforms for

some of our needy families to help kick off the school year with a great start.

### **"T" is for Teamwork**

A special thanks goes to the staff at Jetson for attending our August staff meeting: **Director Daron Brown**, **Program Coordinator Belinda Thomas**, **Director of Treatment Carla Leyda** and the **Social Service Staff**, including **Janice Jones**, **Lawrence Legard**, **Scarlette Pryer**, **Tonga Bryant**, **LaShonda Lang**, **Sandra Sims**, **Nikisha Spann**, **Cherita Irvin** and **Gloria Goss**. Together Jetson staff and our staff were able to discuss concerns, minimize tasks, and collaborate on our thoughts and goals for wrap-around services to the youth we serve. Of course, it was an added bonus for some of our staff, to put faces with the names and voices we hear every month. Thanks, Director Brown and staff, for putting the "T" in Teamwork.

Also, a special thanks to **PPO Roy McBride** for his diligent concern for his colleagues. If PPOs are out of the office on a late transport or out in the field making late contacts, they can be assured to receive a call from PPO McBride before he leaves the office, making sure that they are safe and all is well. That's putting the "T" in Teamwork.

### **Staff Attend Training Sessions**



*Baton Rouge OJJ recently completed CPR and First Aid Training. Pictured is PPO Keondra Riley during CPR/First Aid training.*

**PPS Wendy Sarner** attended the Title IV-E Training in Alexandria.

**SSC Jennifer Anderson** and **PPS Michelle Thomas** attended Motivational Interviewing

**RM Sue Larisey** attended the Coordinated System of Care training class.

**PPO Patsy Adams and PPS Michelle Thomas** attended Emergency Response Team training.

## Alexandria Regional Office

### Congratulations

Last quarter **PPO3, Angelic McCray** and **PPS Clay Dupuy** received employee nomination awards. Keep up the good work!



**PPO1 Brian Charles**, left, and **PPO1 Cory Laborde** took part in the POST Pre-Assessment for the upcoming Adult P&P Academy. The

POST Pre-Assessment was held in August at the Alexandria OJJ Office.



*Brian Charles and Cory Laborde participating in the POST Assessment.*

Please keep **PPO3 Donna Desoto** in your thoughts and prayers. She has been battling pneumonia for some time and was hospitalized for several days.

For **Probation Recognition Month**, AMI students did research on the history of probation and presented in a group. This project celebrated probation and allowed the youth to get experience in performing research.

## Recipe of the Month for September - BCCY Culinary Arts & Occupations Chef Ronald J. Sonnier, CEC



Could it get any hotter? If you had a chance to make the tea recipe I hope you it really helped you to cool off. We are really cookin' it up down here at BCCY and the students are doing so well. The morning class consists of all GED graduate students and they are learning a whole new language. They thought they knew it all but they are still learning a thing or two.

I read a recent article about Culinary Arts programs in prisons and it reported a recidivism rate of 10 percent for program graduates. A 2008 study conducted by Northeastern University's Center for Criminal Justice Policy Research found that Middlesex House of Correction inmates enrolled in programs had a 37 percent reconviction rate within three years of release in 2004, compared to 50 percent reconviction rate for inmates not enrolled in programs. I really feel that the program gives our students a sense of worth, and prepares them for the outside world and a chance of making a better life. Their sense of pride in their products is so rewarding to watch as they present their products to visitors and staff here at BCCY.

I am really proud to be a part of this ongoing process to help our youth become responsible citizens. Working together as a team, we can do so much to further our cause. Hope you enjoy these recipes that we are sending your way.

Have a great month!

Bon appetit 

**Chef Ron Sonnier**



### **Sonnier's Cheesecake**

#### **Crust:**

1 small box graham cracker, crushed  
(30 crackers)  
1/2 cup sugar  
1/2 cup butter, melted

Combine crust ingredients and pat into a springform pan or a 15x9 inch baking dish, forming a crust. Bake 10 minutes at 325 degrees.

#### **Glaze for cheesecake**

3 tbsp sugar  
2 cups sour cream  
3/4 tsp vanilla extract  
Mix sugar, sour cream, vanilla and pour over cooled cheese cake.

#### **Cheesecake:**

Serves 12  
24 oz . cream cheese  
1 cup sugar  
5 large eggs  
1/4 tsp salt  
3/4 tsp almond extract

Beat cream cheese until soft. Add sugar and beat well. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add salt and almond extract. Beat until thick and lemon colored. Pour over crust. Cover with foil and bake at 325  for 55 minutes. Remove foil and bake about 20 minutes or just until the cake starts to turn colors. Let cool for 20 minutes. Add topping and bake for another 10 minutes. Refrigerate overnight and cake is ready to serve with or without your favorite topping.



### **Crabmeat Au Gratin**

1 cup of butter  
3 large sweet onions  
3 cloves of garlic  
5 stalks of celery  
1 bunch of green onions  
2 13oz. cans pet milk  
1 tbsp. salt

3 tbsp. flour  
1/2 tbsp. red pepper  
5 egg yolks (beaten)  
3 lbs. crabmeat  
1/3 cup seasoned bread crumbs  
Shredded cheese

Saut  onions, celery, green onions and garlic in butter, blend in flour, add milk, stirring constantly. Cook until thick and smooth. Add eggs. Turn off heat. Fold in crabmeat. Top with yellow shredded cheese and bake until cheese browns. Serves 4 -6.

# The Inside Scoop...of OJJ

*The Inside Scoop...of OJJ* is published monthly to communicate with and about OJJ staff in offices and facilities throughout the state, about agency activities, happenings and items of interest.

*The Inside Scoop...of OJJ* is produced by the Central Office with input from staff statewide.

## ...until next month

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Shreveport: Terri Harber  
Swanson: Kristi Walker  
Tallulah: LaJuana Harrell  
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### **SPEAK (Special Projects, Expertise and Knowledge)**

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